



**COP17/CMP7**  
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# Climate-Smart Agriculture

## UN system-wide response to climate change

**Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)** brings together 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting global challenges.

**In 2007, CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework**, a joint action-oriented approach in line with the decisions of the UNFCCC Parties. The UN system supports Member States in implementing their commitments and in responding to emerging challenges.

**At COP 17/CMP 7, the UN system** is presenting its ongoing work and practical solutions and tools at side events and exhibits and through this joint package of thematic information.

Contact: [ceb@un.org](mailto:ceb@un.org)

**CEB Website:**

[www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/](http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/)

Business-as-usual scenarios of population growth and food consumption patterns indicate that agricultural production will need to increase by 70 percent to meet demands by 2050. Climate change impacts will increasingly reduce the agricultural sectors (crops and livestock, fisheries and forestry) productivity and production stability in areas of the world that already have high levels of food insecurity, environmental degradation and limited ways of coping with adverse weather.

The agriculture sectors are not only among the most vulnerable sectors to the impacts of climate change; they are also directly responsible for 14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and constitute a key driver of deforestation and land degradation which account for an additional 17 percent. Agricultural sectors can also be an important part of the solution to climate change by capturing synergies from improved food and natural resource systems.

Sustainable utilization of natural resources will require management and governance based on ecosystem approaches that also involve multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral coordination and cooperation. This is crucial for effective agricultural development towards a climate-smart agriculture.

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is rooted in sustainable agriculture and rural development objectives which, if implemented, could help achieve the Millennium Development Goals of reducing hunger and improved environmental management. More productive and resilient agriculture is built upon better management of natural resources including land, water, soil and biodiversity; through practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, improved livestock and water management, integrated pest management and ecosystem approaches to fisheries and aquaculture.

## United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Climate Change Action Framework

Focus (left) and Cross-Cutting Areas (right) have been identified in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the UN system (with corresponding convening agencies) to ensure better coordination and cooperation for concrete deliverables:

Adaptation  
 Technology transfer  
 Forestry and Agriculture  
 Financing mitigation and adaptation action  
 Capacity-building

Climate knowledge; science, assessment, monitoring and early warning  
 Supporting global, regional and national action  
 Public awareness-raising  
 Social Dimensions of Climate Change

# Climate-Smart Agriculture

## Activities

Although there is consensus on the need for climate smart adoption there are still knowledge and methodological gaps in terms of practices, policy and finance. These gaps hinder the ability of stakeholders (from small-holders to policy makers and development agencies) to be able to successfully implement climate-smart actions. An international CSA partnership has therefore been created (see bottom right) to support the update of CSA.

An initial activity is the development of a CSA sourcebook which will provide comprehensive guidance on the advantages, considerations and limitations in the use of different CSA practices, policies and finances. The source book will have various modules including ones on planning and production systems.

The sourcebook will also include modules describing enabling frameworks and will be linked to a web portal which will provide additional detailed information and data to support users.

Another activity being undertaken in partnership with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), has developed a screening methodology to identify climate-smart agriculture investments potential of national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs). The screening aims to assess the potential contribution of climate change investment plans to upscale existing national investment initiatives with high climate-smart potential.

## Benefits

CSA is intended to sustainably increase production, improve livelihoods, build resilience and mitigate climate change. However, it is not always possible to achieve benefits in all fields and there are often trade-offs that need to be considered. The challenge is to capture potential synergies, while managing these trade-offs that may have negative impacts.

CSA Partnership has the objective to build the practices/methodologies, policy and financial knowledgebase and the initiatives and infrastructures to allow stakeholder, at all levels, to develop and implement CSA that captures the most benefits (such as livelihoods, sustainability, resilience, etc.) and limits the trade-offs.

## Moving forward

Durban is an opportunity to highlight the importance of agriculture in the UNFCCC process and the work partners have been carrying out towards supporting the establishment of a SBSTA work programme on agriculture that provides an occasion for adaptation, mitigation and food security. COP 17 will also be an opportunity to present the current activities of the partnership especially in the African region.

The sourcebook and portal are currently being developed and constructed. It is anticipated that authors would produce the first draft of the modules by the end of February 2011.

CSA partnership seeks to be as inclusive as possible and other relevant and interested institutions are encouraged to join.

## Partners

The Climate-Smart Agriculture partnership is formed by a number of agencies and organizations such as FAO, IFAD, UNEP, WFP, the World Bank and CGIAR. It includes other institutions such as Universities, Government, civil society and the private sector.

**Contact:** For information and contact details of the UN agencies and other partners (FAO, IFAD, UNEP, WB, WFP) please contact Peter Holmgren, Director, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division, FAO, [peter.holmgren@fao.org](mailto:peter.holmgren@fao.org)

**Website:** <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/70746/en/>